Fertilizers has submitted a fresh proposal to the Union Government for revamping of Durgapur Plant of HFCL and Sindri Plant of FCIL, with Coal Bed Methane;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the same has been deliberated upon and the decision taken by the Cabinet; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being proposed for revival of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to close down the Durgapur plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. and Sindri plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. as the same have not been found techno-economically viable. The use of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) as feed stock is not possible in the near future.

Restarting of HFCL and FCI Plants

1077. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article published in 'The Statesman' dated the 27th October, 2002 under the caption, "Bangla Ready to Sell Gas to India"; and

(b) if so, the steps being initiated by Government to use this Gas for restarting the HFCL & FCI Plants, located in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Bangladesh has not taken any decision about export of natural gas to India.

Pruning the fertilizer subsidy

1078. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr it is a fact that Government have decided to prune fertilizer subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been taken into confidence before taking a final view; and